

72/3-61-0822

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61-2134

16 March 1961

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Briefing of US Ambassadors

I. The Problem

New procedures and new channels have suddenly appeared side by side with already established procedures and channels. This has caused some confusion, making it imperative that relevant facts be summarized.

II. Background

Heretofore this has been the established division of labor for coordinating briefings and debriefings of Ambassadors and Foreign Service Officers:

- A. Debriefings of FSO's and Ambassadors (current rate for Ambassadors is 2 or 3 a year): requested by State's Bureau of Intelligence and Research (INR), coordinated and administered by OCR, participation by any Agency component as desired.
- B. Orientation briefings of groups of FSO's on CIA functions: requested by State's Foreign Service Institute as integral part of various courses. Requests received and briefings given by OTR Briefing Officer. Some 50% of commissioned FSO's briefed in this manner in past 5 years.
- C. Area or area-related briefings of individual FSO's newly assigned PCS: requested by INR, coordinated and administered by OCR, participation by any Agency component as desired.
- D. Briefings of Ambassadors: by long-standing agreement between State and CIA/DDP, requested by Special Assistant to the Under Secretary (currently Mr. Joseph Scott); coordinated and administered by OTR (function transferred from DDP to OTR in September 1959); participation by DCI and/or DDCI, DDI (short briefing on DDI activities by Mr. Amory or designee and half-hour substantive briefing by senior OCI analyst), DDP (one-hour discussion of DDP activities in area), and DDS (when and if there is a specific DDS interest).

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III. Facts Bearing on the Present Problem

- A. On 8 February a memorandum, prepared by Mr. Kenneth Oakley of INR's Coordination Staff and signed by Mr. Roger Hilsman, was addressed to the Assistant Secretaries advising them of a plan for a special INR effort to insure coordinated intelligence community briefings for newly appointed Ambassadors. Reference was made to Executive Order 10893, dated 8 November 1960. The pertinent provision of that Executive Order:
- . . . It is my desire that the Chief of Mission be made fully aware of his responsibilities and authority with respect to United States activities, in the country to which he is assigned, Not only should instructions be issued to the United States Missions, provision should also be made for complete instruction in these matters before a new Chief of Mission assumes his duties at his post. It is the responsibility of each agency concerned to participate in the indoctrination of each Chief of Mission. (Emphasis added.)
- B. On 1 March a memorandum on "Ambassadorial Briefings" was sent to the Assistant Director, OCR, by Mr. Clyde Snider, Chief, Intelligence Services Branch, Intelligence Coordination Division, INR. The memorandum, accompanied by a list of Ambassadors for whom briefings were being organized, solicited CIA participation.
- C. The INR proposal was discussed briefly at the 7 March USIB meeting and also at one of the Director's meetings with the Deputy Directors. It was decided that the DDP could not participate, but that the DDI would.
- D. The INR proposal calls for two briefings for each Ambassador: a "working-level" and a "high-level" briefing (the latter level to be no lower than Office or Division Chief level). In practice, senior OCI analysts have been going to the "high-level" briefing. The briefings are at State and involve, in addition to INR persons, representatives from the Armed Forces, USIA, AEC, Labor, etc. The OCI analyst is assigned up to 5 minutes and is asked to speak on "requirements." There is a contrast in time involved away from the desk between the old and the new briefing patterns. For example, one senior OCI analyst was away from his desk for

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40 minutes to give Ambassador Biddle a 30-minute substantive briefing. He was away for one hour and 40 minutes to give Ambassador Gavin a 3-minute non-substantive briefing. The time factor, as it relates to traveling to and from State, will become even more significant after the Agency moves to its new building. OCI analysts have not been enthusiastic for the new system. Neither have INR analysts; they have expressed the view to OCI participants that the sessions are "too general and too vague."

- E. Mr. Scott of the Under Secretary's Office was not aware of the new INR plan. Nor was OTR. The old system continues, but without OCI participation.
- F. Apart from all this, there is now a new development within State which bears directly on the problem. The Secretary has directed Ambassador Thorsten Kalijarvi to plan an orientation program for new Ambassadors. Included in the program will be a "CIA Briefing." Whether or not it should include an OCI substantive briefing is a matter for the appropriate senior Agency officials to decide. There will be a meeting on 17 March between a representative of Mr. Scott's office (Mr. Scott is working closely with Ambassador Kalijarvi) and the OTR Briefing Officer.

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Dulles

[redacted] our Briefing Officer, came to me for help in his attempts to straighten out what appears to be a very confused and, from our point of view, unsatisfactory situation with regard to the briefing of U.S. Ambassadors. I asked him to prepare the attached memorandum, copies of which I have taken the liberty of sending to General Cabell, Dick Bissell and Bob Amory on the assumption that you might wish to discuss it at an early Deputies' Meeting.

[redacted]
L. K. White

16 Mar 61
(DATE)

cc: DDCI, DD/P, DD/I

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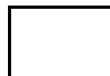
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Remarks:

The boss has asked where we stand on this.



Objectumable State-IVR
briefings have been cancelled
and we're back on the old
satisfactory system.



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